

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A computer readable medium having a schema for a document generation system, the schema comprising:

- a template root element;
- a template information element;
- a data table element; and
- an instances element.

26. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 25, wherein the instances element is configurable to include a pages element, an overlays element, a continuations element, and a data element.

27. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 26, wherein the pages element is configurable to include a page element and the page element is configurable to include an overlays element and a composition element.

28. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 26, wherein the overlays element is configurable to include one or more overlay elements.

29. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 26, wherein the continuations element is configurable to include one or more continuation elements and one or more overflow default elements.

30. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 26, wherein the data element is configurable to include one or more datum elements.

31. (New) A computer readable medium having a data structure for a document, the data structure comprising:

an instance element; and

one or more pages, each page including one or more compositions, each composition configurable to include a collection of unique data placements and a level, and capable of manifesting itself as a document page, a page-level overlay, or an instance-level, conditional overlay.

32. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 31, wherein each composition includes a composition information element, a regions element, a font element, a field modifiers element, and a field table.

33. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 31, further comprising one or more continuations elements and one or more overflow default elements.

34. (New) A computer readable medium having a data structure for a document, the data structure comprising:

a template root element;

a template information element;

a data table element; and

an instances element configured to describe how a document is constructed.

35. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the template information element includes descriptive information about the template element.

36. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 35, wherein the descriptive information includes a title element that contains a title for the document at hand, a description element that is a container for free-form text about the template element, a help text element, which is a container for free-form information that may be useful to a consumer of the document, and a document type element that is provided to support a type element from other schemas or DTDs.

37. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the template information element includes a print constraints element which is a container for special values that may be needed or used by a printing environment.
38. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the data table element includes data values to be used in a specific instance of a template.
39. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 38, wherein the data table element defines a structure of data values that can be accessed by name, or by a combination of name and one or more indices.
40. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 34, wherein the instances element is configured to include one or more instance elements.
41. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 40, wherein each instances element is configurable to include a pages element, an overlays element, a continuations element, and a data table element.
42. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 41, wherein each pages element is configurable to include one or more page elements.
43. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 42, wherein each page element is configurable to include an overlays element and one or more composition elements.
44. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein each overlays element may include one or more overlay elements.
45. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 44, wherein each continuations element is configurable to include one or more continuation elements and one or more overflow default elements.

46. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 45, wherein continuation elements are configured to be used by a processor to process overflows.

47. (New) A computer-implemented method of generating a document, the method comprising:

generating one or more composition elements, each composition element configurable to include a level, and capable of manifesting itself as a document page, a page-level overlay, or an instance-level, conditional overlay; and

laying composition elements on a rendering surface such that elements with a high level replace elements with a low level;

wherein each composition element includes pre-authored formal content.

48. (New) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein each composition element is configurable to include a field target and the method further comprises

processing an overflow condition when a data value assigned to a field target cannot be drawn in the available space according to the attributes governing that space.

49. (New) A method as claimed in claim 48, wherein processing an overflow condition includes applying a font reduction to a field and placing the field on a page in which the overflow condition occurred.

50. (New) A method as claimed in claim 48, wherein processing an overflow condition includes moving a field to a continuations page.

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 48, wherein processing an overflow condition includes moving one or more fields to a single continuation page and arranging the fields with a caption and a forwarding message.